



Waswo X. Waswo makes his 'confessions' at Gallery Espace

Gallery Espace showcases a quirky yet moving solo exhibition titled 'Confessions of an Evil Orientalist' by the acclaimed artist Waswo X. Waswo in collaboration with Rajesh Soni and R. Vijay. Waswo is well recognised for his series of hand-coloured photographs and autobiographical miniatures.

'Confessions of an Evil Orientalist' contains artworks that navigate between personal revelation and inspired fantasy, and has at its centre a list of 101 typed 'confessions' that take the form of both a police report and a mantra. The artist's self-conscious awareness of power relationships, hegemony, and cultural dominance fuses with a poetic questioning of who is the 'outsider' and who 'belongs'. Imagery of a muscular Hanuman runs throughout this exhibition, epitomizing male aggression, cultural conflict, and the eroticization of 'the Other'.

About Waswo X. Waswo

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the U.S.A., the famous artist studied at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, The Milwaukee Center for Photography, and Studio Marangoni, The Centre for Contemporary Photography in Florence, Italy. His book, *India Poems: The Photographs*, published by Gallerie Publishers in 2006, has been available worldwide. The artist has been associated with India for over ten years now. Currently residing in Udaipur, Rajasthan, Waswo has collaborated with a variety of local artists including the photo hand-colourist Rajesh Soni. He has also produced a series of autobiographical miniature paintings in alliance with the artist R. Vijay. In India, he is represented by Gallery Espace (New Delhi) and in Thailand by Serindia Gallery (Bangkok).

About Rajesh Soni

The Udaipur based artist is acclaimed for his abilities to hand paint digital photographs. Born to artist Lalit Soni in 1981, photography runs in the family. Soni inherited the mastery of hand-coloring from his grandfather, Prabhu Lal Soni (Verma), the court photographer to the Maharana Bhopal Singh of Mewar and a hand-colourist who painted the black and white photographs.

About R. Vijay

Born in 1970, R. Vijay is the grandnephew of historic Rajasthani miniaturist-Ramgopal Vijayvargiya. His miniature paintings have drawn attention and praise

from various connoisseurs throughout India. Early in life R. Vijay was tutored by traditional miniaturists such as Sukhdev Singh Sisodiya and Laxmi Narayan Sikaligar. Later he developed his own style, which has been called an eclectic mix of Persian and Mogul styles, along with a bit of the Company School of Indo-British art.

Venue : Gallery Espace

Preview: 7th December'11, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Dates : 7th December, 2011 to 12th January 8, 2012

Timings: Monday- Saturday, 11 am – 7 pm

For further information please contact:

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